

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 IGA-01 AGR-05

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R 042259Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, CE

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

REF: A) COLOMBO 512; B) COLOMBO 484

1. WE HAVE EXAMINED POSSIBLE WAYS U.S. MIGHT RESPOND TO PRIME MINISTER'S REQUEST FOR PUMPS, SPARE PARTS AND EARTH-MOVING EQUIPMENT BUT DO NOT THINK THE PROSPECTS ARE BRIGHT. MOST IMMEDIATE AVAILABLE SOURCE OF FINANCING OF COURSE WOULD HAVE BEEN TO REOPEN FY 75 DEVELOPMENT LOAN. AS INDICATED COLOMBO 384, HOWEVER, THERE APPEARS GENERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN U.S. SIDE AND GSL WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIALS THAT FERTILIZERS REMAIN HIGH PRIORITY REQUIREMENT FOR SRI LANKA AND THAT WE SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO DIVERT FUNDS FROM ALREADY AUTHORIZED FY 75 FERTILIZER LOAN.

2. A SECOND POTENTIAL SOURCE OF FUNDING IS FY 76 DEVELOPMENT LOAN. BASED ON DATA PRESENTLY AVAILABLE INCLUDING MATERIAL HAND-CARRIED FROM COLOMBO BY BALIS, WE THINK TWO

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FY 76 PROPOSALS UNDER CONSIDERATION, MAHAVELI GANGA PRO-

JECT AND GRAIN STORAGE PROJECT REPRESENT MORE EFFECTIVE USE
OF DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUNDS THAN SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT CON-
TAINED IN EMERGENCY REQUEST. WE ARE UNDER CONGRESSIONAL

MANDATE TO DEVELOP U.S. AID PROGRAMS WHICH ARE DISCRETE,
WELL-FOCUSED AND WILL PROVIDE DIRECT BENEFIT TO SMALL
FARMERS. ALTHOUGH FURTHER STUDY IS REQUIRED ON TWO PRO-
JECTS PROPOSED FOR FY 76, OUR INITIAL REACTION IS THAT
THEY SHOW GOOD PROMISE OF MEETING THESE CRITERIA, WHILE
THIS LESS CERTAIN FOR EQUIPMENT REQUESTED IN EMERGENCY
APPEAL.

3. THIRD POTENTIAL SOURCE IS FY 75 END OF YEAR FUNDS AS
SUGGESTED COLOMBO 384. AS THINGS STAND NOW WE CANNOT HOLD
OUT MUCH HOPE THAT FUNDS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR AN ADDITION-
AL FY 75 SRI LANKA LOAN. IN ANY EVENT, WE JUDGE THAT \$24
MILLION FY 75 PL 480 PROGRAM ALONG WITH \$8 MILLION FY 75
FERTILIZER CREDITS MARKS SUBSTANTIAL USG CONTRIBUTION TO
HELP ALLEVIATE SRI LANKA'S CURRENT FOOD CRISIS AND JUDGE
FROM PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER (COLOMBO 584) THAT THIS IS
ALSO HER VIEW. KISSINGER

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